DECLASSIFIED

GPOSS MARGARET A
77 SEOUL 10219

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY BA/Rock DATE 2/12/80

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
PAGE 01 SEOUL 10219 0522137
ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 JUSE-00 /059 W
----------060360 060621Z 23

R 0509287 DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7950
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 10219
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: KS, US
SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF PAK TONG-SON: FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. WEEKEND PRESS DRAWS ON FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-CHIN'S DECEMBER 3 PRESS CONFERENCE TO REPORT THAT AGREEMENT NEAR ON PAK TONG-SON CASE. STORIES INDICATE MINISTER PAK SIAD REMAINING PROBLEMS ARE HOW TO CO-OPERATE WITH US WHILE GUARANTEEING PAK TONGSON'S SAFE RETURN TO KOREA AFTER TESTIFYING. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "WHEN THESE TWO ASPECTS ARE SATISFACTORILY COMPROMISED, THE KOREA-US NEGOTIATIONS...WILL HAVE BEEN SETTLED." (EMBASSY HAS EXPRESSED SUPPRISED CONCERN OVER THIS DISTORTION OF US RESPONSE.) MINISTER ALSO CONFIRMED REPORTS REGARDING PLANS FOR CONCLUDING SPECIAL JUDICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT.

2. MONDAY PM PAPERS QUALIFIED REPORTS SLIGHTLY. OFFICIAL SEOUL SINMUN SAID AGREEMENT NOT LIKELY BEFORE END OF YEAR AND THAT PAK WOULD NOT GO TO THE US UNTIL FEBRUARY OR MARCH. PAPER SUGGESTED HOWEVER THAT THERE WOULD BE ANNOUNCEMENT LATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
PAGE 02 SEOUL 10219 0522137

IN DECEMBER ABOUT FURTHER VISIT OF JUSTICE DEPART-MENT OFFICIALS TO KOREA. CHUNGANG ILBO REPORTED THAT TWO MORE NEGOTIATING MEETINGS LIKELY THIS WEEK AND THAT PAK TONG-SON LIKELY TO GO TO US IN EARLY JANUARY.

3. CHUNGANG ILBO ALSO DELINEATED POINTS TO BE COVERED BY THE MUTUAL PROSECUTION ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT: (A) MODALITY OF QUESTIONING AT US EMBASSY (NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS, DURATION), (B) PLACE, DURATION, AND PARTI-CIPANTS FOR SEOUL INVESTIGATION, AND (C) AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THE DATE OF PARK'S TRAVEL, FREQUENCY, LOCATION AND DURATION OF TESTIMONY, AND METHODS OF GUARANTEEING HIS SAFETY, IMMUNITY FROM PROSECTUION, AND RETURN TO KOREA.

4. CHOSUN ILBO DECEMBER 4 BACKGROUND ARTICLE SAW ROK AGREEMENT TO PARK'S TESTIFYING IN US AS FINAL GREAT CONCESSION TO US SIDE AND REFERRED TO FONMIN'S DECISION

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE / PAGE 1

0515397730

0317224Z DEC 77

GROSS MARGARET A
77 SEOUL 10219

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

TO COMPROMISE WITH US AS "AGONIZING". ARTICLE DETAILED THREE PREVIOUS CONCESSIONS: 1) EARLY SEPTEMBER AGREEMENT TO HAVE HAWORSKI INTERVIEW PARK IN SEOUL, 2) LATE SEPTEMBER AGREEMENT TO HANDLE CASE THROUGH JUDICIAL CHANNELS INCLUDING CIVILETTI VISIT, AND 3) LATE OCTOBER AGREEMENT THAT PARK COULD BE INTERVIEWED AT US EMBASSY. ARTICLE SUGGESTED THAT IN RETURN US MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT ANTI-KOREAN PUBLIC OPINION IN US.
SNEIDER
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED